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# PelhamNEWS

Published by Postmedia

## Green outside, but icy indoors



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Dozens of people laced up their skates and hit the ice last Wednesday afternoon when Pelham Arena held its Tim Hortons Holiday Free Skate. Alyssa Toffolo, 19, took advantage of the free skate time by taking her student Jack Cunningham, 4, for a lesson. Cunningham said he loves his teacher and skating. With a big grin on his face he said he gets to do "fun stuff." Toffolo said she has been involved with hockey and skating her whole life and enjoys teaching Cunningham.



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# UPFRONT

■ **AUTHOR:** New children's book tackles bullying

## Talking to kids about bullies through rhymes

**FRANKI IKEMAN**  
Postmedia Network

What's in a name?

For some children, their given name can be a topic of teasing and bullying from their peers.

It's an issue tackled in a new children's book *No Shame in a Name* by Dan Vulcanovic.

"There once was a boy whose name was Fred, he wished his name was James instead..." the book starts.

It goes on to talk about Fred's struggle with bullies until he meets an older boy, named Igor, who builds his confidence by sharing his similar experiences.

"Bullying is everywhere. I was teased as a kid, and that particular book... Igor, my older brother is Igor, and I remember as a kid him coming home and complaining about his name to my dad," Vulcanovic said.

Vulanovic and his wife, Welland native Karen Mollica, live in Amman, Jordan, where she is posted with the federal government at the Canadian embassy.

The parents to twin boys Luke and Alex, said that if this story can help parents talk about bullying with their children, then they hopefully help the children build the confidence to deal with it.

"It helps parents talk about that kind of thing with their kids, because every kid I think in some point in their life is very likely to be faced with that kind of a situation," Mollica said. "So talking about it in advance I think helps to just kind of build their confi-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Dan Vulcanovic with sons Luke and Alex.

dence and give them the tools they're going to need to deal with that."

But Vulcanovic said he never set out to try and tackle bullying. The computer programmer turned stay-at-home-dad said he wanted to give writing a try.

"I think as any stay-at-home-parents with kids you read the same books over and

over, some good and some bad, and I just thought I kind of wanted to give it a crack," he said.

"You know, honestly, the 'funnest' part was writing all the words... just making them rhyme and to just sit with a notepad and kind of jot out your ideas."

A couple of years ago, he

created a phone app called Poseable to help him learn to draw. He was able to use that program to help him create the images for the book.

Vulanovic said with a laugh that the transition from computer programmer to author "wasn't as big of a transition as computer programmer to stay-at-home-dad."

The writing was the fun part, but putting it into pages and figuring out how to publish it was more difficult.

Vulanovic's father-in-law, Tony Mollica, owns a Welland-based publishing company called Soleil Publishing and was happy to be able to get the book to print.

Tony Mollica said he thinks

the book sends a good message and would make for a lovely gift for children.

*No Shame in a Name* can be purchased at Soleil Publishing by contacting 905-788-2674 or by e-mail at [soleil@soleilpublishing.com](mailto:soleil@soleilpublishing.com).

[franki.ikeman@sunmedia.ca](mailto:franki.ikeman@sunmedia.ca)  
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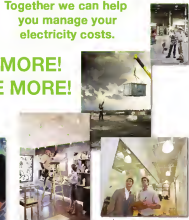
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Postmedia Network

Kevin Strooband, executive director of Lincoln County Humane Society, said

"That turned out to be negative early last week."

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# Upcoming Open House for Maple Acre Design

DAVE AUGUSTYN  
 Special to Postmedia Network

Members of the Maple Acre Advisory Committee and I want your feedback on the design of the renewed Pelham library branch in downtown Fenwick. We invite you to an open house on Wednesday, Jan. 13, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Pelham Fire Station No. 2 (766 Welland Rd.) where the architect and builder will display the latest designs.

Council and the library board recognized years ago that the aged Maple Acre library branch required renewal; we struck a joint committee back in 2006 to make recommendations. While that committee looked at many ideas — building a joint Library/

Firehall (prior to the new Fire Station No. 2), constructing a new library either in Centennial Park or at the former Fire Station (Welland Road at Canboro) — it got a bit bogged down.

Then, despite an increasing Town grant and best efforts by the library board, the library posted a \$60,000 year-end deficit for 2012. The town retained a consulting firm in early-2013 to conduct facilities and operations reviews.

The facilities review recommended that the Maple Acre branch become a kiosk-type operation, instead of a full-service branch. This recommendation was rejected by the board and met the ire of the community-at-large. So, in late-2013 to early-2014, council initiated combined council, board, Friends of

Maple Acre library and community creative problem solving sessions. The challenge — how might we provide the most appropriate library services in Fenwick — led to an April 2014 resolution of council to “continue library services at the Maple Acre branch.”

That spring, council struck a tripartite working group to recommend a “state of the art, ideal, and resilient library” in Fenwick. In September, the group proposed renovating and adding on to the original 1919 Maple Acre building with a “learning commons” — type library with “rentable, flexible, multi-purpose, open space” and an area for the community’s “significant historic records.” Council accepted the report and approved a \$1-million expense for the design/build of the facility in 2015.

The proposed design includes a quiet/study room, a lounge area facing Canboro Road, a technology centre, an historic record workroom, and children’s activity/multi-purpose rooms that can be used/rented separately. The exterior endeavours to follow the Town’s design guidelines for civic landmark buildings (like libraries): “Where additions or external alterations are proposed, the design should be sympathetic and subordinate to the heritage aspects of the buildings while clearly distinguishing between that which is new and old” (S4.7, P35).

Now, we are ready for and want your thoughts and feedback on the design. I hope you can join us next Wednesday.

You may contact Mayor Dave at [mayordave@pelham.ca](mailto:mayordave@pelham.ca)

# Shipwrecks: The Alpena catches fire in shipyard

SKIP GILLHAM  
 Special to Postmedia Network

A major fire broke out aboard the cement carrier Alpena at the Sturgeon Bay shipyard on Dec. 11, 2015. The blaze roared through the galley, kitchen, aft accommodations, a storage area, electrical controls and steering gear and proved a real challenge for the many area firefighters.

The vessel was undergoing winter work and, at this writing, there was no determination as to the cost or viability of repairing the 74 year old ship. Originally the ore carrier Leon Fraser, the ship was shortened and rebuilt for the cement trade as Alpena in 1991.

It has been a Welland Canal trader and came through the local waterway as recently as last September.



The Alpena came through the local waterway as recently as last September.

MATT MINER/PHOTO

## ■ ANIMAL CRUELTY



FACEBOOK PHOTO

A posting on Facebook threatening to make a Yorkie disappear led Niagara Regional Police to investigate.

## Dog threatened in online posting safe, police say

KAREN WALTER  
Postmedia Network

Police say a Yorkie is in safe hands after its owner threatened to make the dog "disappear Welland Cana-style" on an online website.

The posting, which comes months after a dog was found dead in the Welland Canal, drew a backlash on the Niagara Market Facebook site and led to a police investigation Saturday.

"Someone come buy this 10-month-old female Yorkie befor (sic) the ghost busters come make it disappear welland canal style," the post said.

Niagara Regional Police Staff Sgt. Murray Hladay of the Niagara Falls detachment said police investigated and found the dog was returned by the owner to the breeder. The breeder has already found it another home.

Hladay said the posting was an attention-getter and police found the owner was not serious about throwing it in the canal. He wasn't charged.

"He had no intention of carrying out the threat whatsoever."

Hladay said police take these types of social media postings seriously.

NRP launched an investigation after receiving a complaint through its Facebook site Saturday. Police also received phone calls after the posting went viral.

A lot of concerned people saw it on Facebook," Hladay said. "We investigated right away."

The dog had been returned to the

breeder before police were made aware of the posting.

The post comes just months after a German shepherd found beaten, hogtied and floating in the Welland Recreational Canal by a group of young girls on April 29.

A post-mortem examination found the dog had been bound with an electrical cord and hit with blunt or sharp force. It was alive when it entered the water, suggesting the cause of death was drowning.

A \$5,500 reward for information on the person responsible has been offered by the combined efforts of U.S.-based PETA, Welland and District Humane Society, Queen Waldorf Fights Back and members of the community.

The original post about the Yorkie on Niagara Market is believed to have been removed but a re-post by a concerned citizen on Saturday drew hundreds of angry responses. More than 350 comments were made before the re-post disappeared just before 2 p.m., many infuriated with the dog owner who goaded them on, telling them to get it "fungo off." The poster could not be reached for comment.

"Somebody should find him and throw him in the canal," said one person.

"Think we should all show this punk what Welland style really means!" said another.

karen.walter@postmedia.ca

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## ■ NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT

# No TV, but fans flock to Falls

**JOHN LAW**  
Postmedia Network

With Queen Victoria Park filling up and fireworks about to go off, Alan Doyle took a moment to soak it all in New Year's Eve. The former *Great Big Sea* singer was making his fourth appearance at the annual concert, and it's among his favourite gigs.

"I always think of Niagara Falls as like a Canadian Times Square," he said. "I'm so grateful they asked me back, it means a lot to me to do it."

It was a sentiment shared by Dennis DeYoung and Tom Cochrane, also making repeat visits to a concert that may have lost its TV coverage this year but still had thousands of bundled up fans show up for the event's 25th year.

After years of CHCH and Global broadcasting the show, the first thing many repeat visitors noticed was the lack of giddy production. No swooping cameras, no massive stage. And without the commercials and pre-taped segments of a TV show, it was more of a straightforward concert: Down With Webster kicked things off at 8 p.m., followed by Doyle, DeYoung and finally Cochrane to end the night. All played for about an hour.

Weland's Jessica Fedoruk has been to the past 12 New Year's Eve concerts, and while there was a noticeable difference this time, she still loves the tradition.

"We were talking on the way over, about how nice it would be, even if you don't live in the area, to book a few days vacation here just to see the show and fireworks."

Friend Sean Lagesten, also of Weland, said the show has had its "ups and downs" in recent years, but was excited for this year's lineup. Both he and Fedoruk stayed their spot up close to see

Doyle.

After the huge success of the 2014 show — more than four million viewers at midnight — this year's event took a heavy hit: when Global opted not to broadcast it due to expenses. The city, Niagara Parks Commission and tourism partners scrambled to put together a scaled-back show, with the lineup not announced until Dec. 16.

Some former viewers tweeted their disappointment at not being able to watch the show at home.

"Sadly in Canada I can't find a New Year's Eve celebration on TV. Way to go Niagara Falls 'dropped the ball,'" wrote Linda Camus of Fonthill.

"Pitiful," added Calgary tweeter n0t4rper. "C'mon CTV, CBC, Global, Pitiful." Niagara Parks Commission chairwoman Janice Thomson said there was never a doubt there'd still be a live concert in the park, TV or not. She was thrilled with the "great energy" she saw on a chilly night.

"I'm pleased it came off as well as it has tonight," she said. "It's a happy crowd, it's a festive crowd."

Thomson said the crowd was estimated at about 35,000 near midnight.

Mayor Jim Diodati said the show will return to TV next year. A long-term deal with a new broadcaster will be announced soon.

Which means Thursday night's show may be a one-time return to classic rock, which suited fans of DeYoung and Cochrane just fine. Both delivered high-energy sets full of hits and no filler.

DeYoung played the 2007 show, and the Niagara Falls New Year's Eve show is an "unusual" one for him. It's the only time he ever performs outdoors in the cold.

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### ■ TAKING THE PLUNGE

## Chippawa chills out for polar bear dip

JOHN LAW  
Postmedia Network

After a relatively balmy December, polar bear dip season was looking less frigid this year in Niagara.

That all changed Saturday. With temperatures hovering around 1°C all day, the chill was back for the fifth annual Chippawa Public Docks Committee Polar Bear Dip. Nearly a hundred brave souls tried to stay warm before rushing into a bitterly cold Welland River off the Chippawa boat ramp on Lyons Creek Road.

Chippawa's Christen Anderson, 14, took the plunge last year, and was joined by her 16-year-old sister Mercedes Saturday.

"She wants me to freeze to death," said Mercedes, who said she took some "ice cold" baths to prepare for the event.

"It looks fun to do, and it's part of the community. Now I can say I did the polar bear dip."

Christen said there's no way to prepare for the dive — once the water hits, it takes your breath away.

"And then your feet are so cold," she said, adding it took 30 minutes to warm back up last year. "I had lots of hot chocolate."

The siblings made it a contest this year. If Christen didn't stay in the river for at least 15 seconds, she had to

cough up \$10.

"It feels like an hour, apparently," said Mercedes with a grin.

Dressed in gladiator gear, John Thompson of Niagara Falls dove in for the second straight year. He finds jumping in the water "less of a shock" in winter than summer because of the temperature difference, but it's still jarring.

"I mean, how do you prepare for that?"

The store manager for PartSource on Lundy's Lane encourages his employees to make the dive for Jumpstart Charities, which helps raise funds to enable kids to participate in sports who can't otherwise afford it.

The Chippawa Public Docks Committee started the dip to help raise funds for future projects, but co-chairman Dan Tibbs said it's mainly to get the community together for a fun start to the year "instead of sitting around the house."

Residents have responded by making it one of the largest and most colourful polar bear/penguin dips in the region. Some, like Edy Bookers, have taken the dive every year.

To mark his fifth time out, Booker — a crowd favourite every year — jumped in five times.

"Next year, I'll be going for six."

john.law@postmedia.ca

### Announcement

Tim and Dianne Sturman of Port Colborne Ontario would like to announce their retirement from Glenmount Memorials Inc. effective December 31st 2015. Glenmount has been acquired by Garth and Allison Nelson of Kitchener Waterloo Ontario owners of **"Stone Centre Inc., Ontario's Largest Retail Monument Company."**

The company will continue to operate as Glenmount Memorials. The offices will continue to be managed by long time employees and OMBAA Certified Master Memorialists, Joanne Sabourin CMM in Welland and Lorri Ursacki CMM in Port Colborne.

In its long-standing tradition of serving the communities and families of the Niagara Region, Glenmount will continue to provide the highest quality products and personal, attentive service to its customers.

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## ■ YEAR AHEAD

# Niagara Catholic watching the numbers

**WAYNE CAMPBELL**  
For Postmedia Network

In 2016 a new Catholic school will go up, the first in a few years.

A larger St. Martin, with 454 students, will replace a current school 351-student school in

Smithville. The \$10-million elementary school is expected to open in 2017.

Rev. Paul MacNeill, chairman of Niagara Catholic District School Board, called it a big project for the new year.

Of course, he said, there are always upgrades to buildings

in a system of 57 schools that includes eight high schools and more than 21,700 students.

The board is not considering any closings, MacNeill said.

The board's eight trustees and staff, however, do watch Niagara's demographic trends. They see areas of population growth

in Niagara Falls, Beamsville, Pelham and Grimsby, as well as shrinkage in rural communities.

The heart of a school board's finances relies on the number students in a system. The province provides funds based on daily enrolment.

"It's a matter of bums in the

seats," MacNeill said with a laugh during an interview at a high day, pastor of Our Lady of Scapular in Niagara Falls.

"I hope and pray our region would take off," he said about growth in the local economy. It would bring families to Niagara.

"We have so much going for us," close to Toronto, on the border with the United States and good place to live, he said.

The province, meanwhile, wants to ensure school buildings are used to capacity and open to the community.

"I'm really big on our schools being collaborative," MacNeill said. "We want to be leaders in how we line up shared usage."

In its strategic plan, Vision 2020, the board stresses the use of schools as community hubs. Schools could be centres for a parish, a village, a neighbourhood, whatever the need.

On shared usage, the one caution always must be the safety of students, MacNeill said.

"You wouldn't want anything to happen to one of those precious kids."

In 2016 the school board will review Vision 2020 to see if it needs any adjustment.

MacNeill calls the strategic plan, which began in 2008, a living document capable of change.

As a school board trustee, MacNeill represents Pelham, West Lincoln, Lincoln and Grimsby. He was elected to a second term in 2014 while pastor of St. Ann Catholic Church in Fenwick.

MacNeill was just re-elected to

the one-year position as chairman by the other trustees.

He said he has his name stand because one year just was not quite enough to have an impact.

He has a particular interest in governance.

"I want to ensure the eight of us work well together and are engaged in good discussion," he said. "That includes expression of the dissenting voices."

MacNeill praises trustees for their dedication to Catholic education.

"Our main purpose is to set the direction for the school board and make sure we have the money to do it."

The day-to-day operations are in the hands of the school board's staff.

The trustees, MacNeill said, have two key priorities: ensuring a good Catholic education and putting students first.

The money for the board's budget is based on estimates of the number of students throughout the year. It must ensure funding is balanced across schools.

This is always a challenge, the board chairman said.

MacNeill became a trustee partly because he loves learning. The parish priest has lectured at Niagara University and Canisius College, and is working on a PhD at McMaster University in Hamilton.

"I love science and mathematics and don't find it inconsistent with my faith," he said.

He wants to see students use their faith to think things through for themselves.

## Underground Transmission Line – Notice of Road Closure Mountainview Road

For the Niagara Region Wind Project, FWRN

**Project Name**  
**Project Location**

Niagara Region Wind Project (the "Project")  
Within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario  
Haldimand County and Niagara Region, the 11th of January 2016.

**Notice Dated At**

Niagara Region Wind Corporation, now FWRN LP (the "Proponent"), are engaging in a renewable energy project for which a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") was issued by the Ministry of the Environment (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) on November 21, 2014.

### Project Description

The Project is located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario. The Project will consist of 77 wind turbine generators, step-up transformer, electrical collector lines, a transmission line, two transformer substations, turbine access roads and construction staging areas. The Project will have a total maximum nameplate capacity of up to 230 MW.



### Underground Transmission Line – Road Closure

Vault and duct bank installations, along with underground trenching will begin on Mountainview Road starting Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The road closure will be from: Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. Detours for this road closure are: South Service Road to Lincoln Avenue to Greenlane (see diagram above). Please note that public services (i.e. mail delivery, garbage pick-up, school buses, etc.) may be disrupted during this time.

If you have any obstructions in the right-of-way near your property (e.g. fences, private gas lines, gardens, tiles, electrical lines), please contact Shiloh Berriman (contact information below).

### Project Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the Project's construction phase, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

NIAGARA REGION WIND PROJECT CONTACT	GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION
Shiloh Berriman	General Number: 819-363-6491
Email: shiloh.berriman@enrcon.co	Toll Free: 1-844-363-6491
Cell: 289-683-2563	Project email: info@nrwc.ca
	Project website: www.nrwc.ca



WAYNE CAMPBELL/FOR POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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## ■ IIHF-U18 WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

## St. Catharines ready for puck to drop

KARENA WALTER  
Postmedia Network

St. Catharines will welcome the world this week as Meridian Centre gets set to host its first international sporting event.

The best young female hockey players from eight countries have started arriving for the International Ice Hockey Federation's Under-18 Women's World Championship running Jan. 8 to 15.

The event is projected to bring \$4 million in economic activity to the city and province, feature high-quality competitive hockey, shine an international spotlight on the downtown arena and host a family-friendly street party to boot.

Single game tickets go on sale today ranging from \$5 to \$20 plus fees, but the community has already set record ticket sales for the championships by purchasing packages.

"It's great to see the community get behind the event," said Matt Hill, general manager of the event. "Every ticket now that we're selling is going to set an attendance record for this event, which is fantastic."

Hill said 15,000 to 16,000 tickets have been sold, leaving each game with a few hundred to a thousand tickets available.

The event's previous ticket record was 12,000.

Bid organizers originally projected a total 10,000 attendees in St. Catharines.

Hill attributed the big response to the growing popularity of women's hockey and the community's enthusiasm for sports.

"With this event, this is the first time that a lot of these girls will represent their country within their sport. It's essentially the next generation of Olympians coming into our hometown," Hill said.

He said there's been a growth of the women's game over the past five to 15 years with players such as Hayley Wickenheiser, Brianna Jenner and Marie-Philip Poulin becoming well

known.

"There's lots of household names now within the women's game which I think speaks tremendously to the growth of the sport."

Host committee chairman Bill Fenwick said on top of the ticket sales, the event has given 7,000 tickets away free to about 40 elementary and secondary schools.

"We want to make sure the under-18 girls have a good crowd to play in front of," Fenwick said.

"I think what people are going to find is the quality of play of these girls is phenomenal. Most people know what boy's hockey is about, but I don't think they realize the quality and growth of women's hockey in Canada and in the world."

For the young players, Fenwick said the tournament provides an experience to see the quality of play on a world stage and decide if they want to further their hockey careers.

For spectators, he said it's an opportunity to see players who will be on their national teams down the road.

"These are going to be the future representatives of their nation on the world scene in women's hockey," Fenwick said. "It's a real opportunity for people to come out and see that right before them in St. Catharines and the Niagara region."

Hill said Switzerland's team was the first to arrive last Wednesday, with Russia coming in on Thursday so its members could attend the New Year's Eve celebration in Niagara Falls.

The 300 to 320 participants, including athletes, coaches, trainers and officials, are all staying in St. Catharines hotels for the 10 days, Hill said.

Four teams — Russia, Sweden, Czech Republic and Finland — are training in Niagara while the Canadian, Swiss, U.S. and French teams will train in the Greater Toronto Area.

A handful of the games will be held at the Seymour-Hannah complex but the vast majority of the action takes place at the Meridian.

"One of the strengths of our bid was that this was a brand new facility and in a way this launches the facility onto the international sports stage," Hill said.

"The venue is a game-changer." St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sennik said there's a tremendous amount of energy leading up to the tournament.

## COOL PARTY

A family-friendly Fan Fest street party will be held Saturday in downtown St. Catharines.

Activities, entertainment and an inflatable rink for ball hockey will be on St. Paul Street from about 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

St. Paul Street will be closed to vehicle traffic between William and James streets, where the pedestrian bridges to Meridian Centre are located.

"I think it's going to be exciting to watch women play hockey at the Meridian Centre at an international level, and I think the people of St. Catharines will showcase that we can host these kinds of world-class events at

that level."

Sennik said St. Catharines has a passion for sport, pointing to the soldout venue for Pan Am rowing medal rounds and the 2,800 attendees for the first Niagara River Lions basketball

game.

"I think that's something we should be proud of. We embrace sport just as much or more than a lot of other communities in Canada and this is a demonstration of it."

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NATIONAL POST

THE TRIBUNE

## THE PUCK STOPS HERE

What: 2016 IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship

When: January 8-15

Where: Meridian Centre, 1 IceDogs Way, St. Catharines (four games are at Seymour-Hannah, 240 St. Paul St. W.)

Tickets: Online at Ticketmaster or

from the Meridian Centre Box Office  
Teams: Group A: Canada, Czech Republic, Russia and U.S.A. Group

B: Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and France, which is entering the competition for the first time.

Partners: Hockey Canada, Ontario Women's Hockey Association and Niagara Sport Commission

More information: www.hockeycanada.ca/2016Niagara



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